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B7B
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(54) A steerable ski

(57) Two ski runners (1,2) are arranged one in front of the other with the front end of runner (2) in line with the rear end of the front runner (1), a footboard (3) is supported by the rear ski runner (2), and steering means (7,9,11) is supported by the front ski runner. The rear ski runner (2) is connected to the steering bearing member 11 such that the direction in which the front ski runner points is steerably controlled independently of the direction in which the rear ski runner points. The connecting rod 12 may be resiliently flexible to accommodate uneven ground.

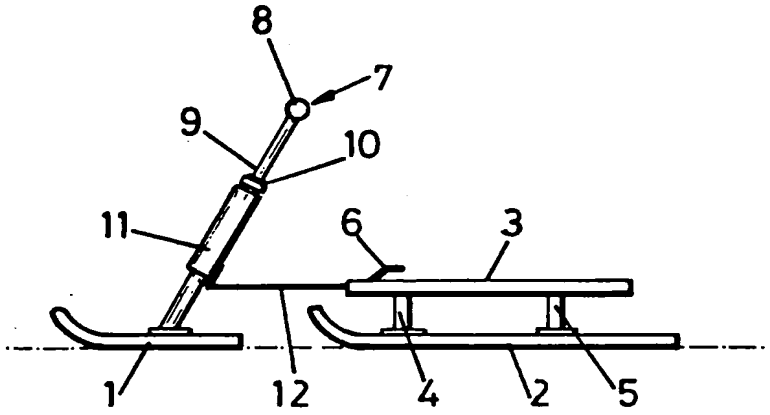

FIG. 1

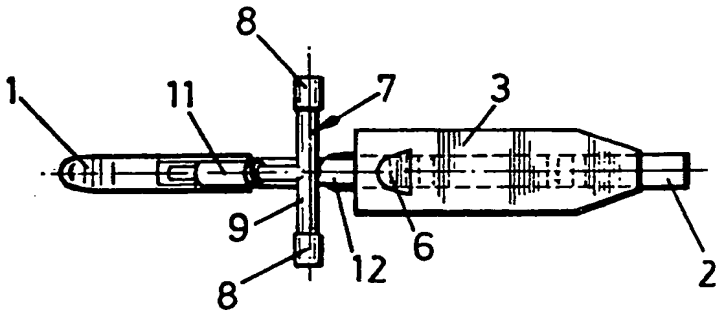

FIG. 2

GB 2 171 063 A

The drawing(s) originally filed was/were informal and the print here reproduced is taken from a later filed formal copy.

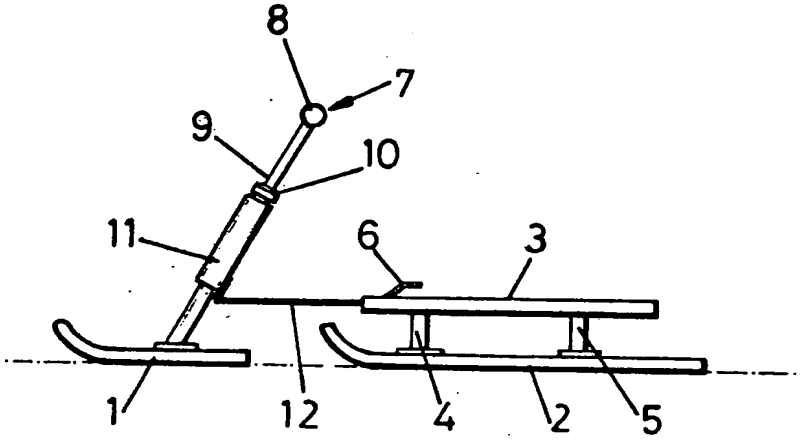

FIG. 1

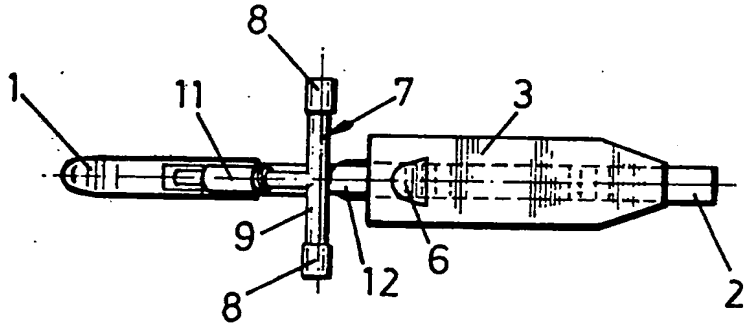

FIG. 2

SPECIFICATION

A steerable ski

The present invention relates to a steerable ski.

Conventional skis comprise two ski runners each of which is secured to a respective foot of skier. Each ski runner is rigid throughout its full length and thus the skier has to control the direction in which he moves by shifting his weight from one ski to the other.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a steerable ski in which the direction of movement is steerably controllable.

According to the present invention there is provided a steerable ski comprising two ski runners arranged one in front of the other with the front end of one in line with the rear end of the other, a footboard supported by the rear ski runner, steering means supported by the front ski runner and connecting means adapted to connect the rear ski runner to the steering means such that the direction in which the front ski runner points can be steerably controlled independently of the direction in which rear ski runner points.

Preferably, the connecting means comprise a tubular bearing member in which the steering means is rotatably mounted and a connecting rod connecting the tubular bearing member to the front edge of the footboard.

Preferably, the connecting rod is resiliently flexibile to allow the front ski runner to ride up and down relative to the rear ski runner.

Preferably, the footboard comprises a toe rest.

Preferably, the front ski runner is shorter in length than the rear ski runner.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a side view of a steerable ski embodying the present invention; and,

Figure 2 shows a plan view of the steerable ski of Fig. 2.

Referring to the accompanying drawing the steerable ski embodying the present invention comprises a steerable front ski runner 1 and a rear ski runner 2. Both front and rear ski runners 1 and 2 are of the same width, however, the front ski runner 1 is shorter than the rear ski runner 2 to allow it to be moved quickly in snow and to steer the steerable ski.

A footboard 3 is mounted above the upper surface of the rear ski runner 2 by means of a pair of supports 4 and 5. The width and length of the footboard 3 are such that a user's feet may both be accommodated thereon, very much in the manner of a skate board. A toe rest 6 is provided towards the front edge of the footboard 3 in which the toe of the user's leading foot can be forwardly wedged.

The steerable front ski runner 1 is connected to a pair of handle bars 7, each having a hand grip 8 at the end thereof, by means of a steering rod 9. The length of the steering rod 9 is telescopically adjustable to allow the position of the handle bars 7 to be adjusted to the optimum height for a particular user and a clamp 10 is provided to secure the steering rod in this position. The steering rod 9 is rotatably mounted in a tubular bearing member 11 which in turn is connected through a resiliently flexible connecting rod 12 to the front edge of the footboard 3. Thus the direction of the front ski runner 1 relative to the rear ski runner 2 can be altered by turning the handle bars 7 and the direction in which the steerable ski moves can be controlled.

In use the user holds onto the handle bars 7 and positions his leading foot on the footboard 3 and in the toe rest 6. Then, to begin moving the user pushes rearwardly against the ground with his other foot. The user continues to push against the ground until a satisfactory speed is built up at which point the pushing foot can be rested on the footboard 3. By turning the handle bars 7 the direction in which the front ski runner 1 points can be changed and, as the rear ski runner 2 follows the front ski runner 1, the direction in which the steerable ski moves can be steerably controlled.

The resiliently flexible connecting rod 12 allows the front ski runner 1 to rise up relative to the rear ski runner 2 to accommodate bumps in the ground over which the steerable ski runs.

To provide for a light steerable ski the front and rear ski runners and the footboard are conveniently comprised of polypropylene or similar fibre glass or aluminium sheeting, whilst the handle bars, steering rod, tubular bearging member and supports are comprised of aluminium tubing and mild steel tubing. The resiliently deformable connecting rod may comprise a flat iron bar or metal tubing.

CLAIMS

1. A steerable ski comprising two ski runners arranged one in front of the other with the front end of one in line with the rear end of the other, a footboard supported by the rear ski runner, steering means supported by the front ski runner and connecting means adapted to connect the rear ski runner to the steering means such that the direction in which the front ski runner points can be steerably controlled independently of the direction in which rear ski runner points.

2. A steerable ski as claimed in claim 1 wherein the connecting means comprises a tubular bearing member in which the steering means is rotatably mounted and a connecting rod connecting the tubular bearing member to the front edge of the footboard.

3. A steerable ski as claimed in claim 2

wherein the connecting rod is resiliently flexible to allow the front ski runner to ride up and down relative to the rear ski runner.

4. A steerable ski as claimed in any preceding claim wherein said footboard comprises a toe rest.

5. A steerable ski as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the front ski runner is shorter in length than the rear ski runner.

6. A steerable ski substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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